

Shrewsbury School Journal

Serving a community of continuous learners

Back-to-School 2011 • Vol XVI No.1

Superintendent's Corner Educating with the heart

DR. JOSEPH M. SAWYER
SUPERINTENDENT

In this space, I'd like to share with you an adapted excerpt from my remarks to the staff at our opening day assembly.

As I think about the challenges that face us I am reminded of a quote from one of my favorite educational leaders, Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, who said: "Dark times lie ahead of us, and there will be a time when we must choose between what is easy and what is right." Our school district faces some very important challenges in the coming years, and we need to make wise choices regarding how we approach these if we are to serve our students well. This work will not be easy, as the kind of education we must give to our students to be able to succeed in a 21st century environment is different from the one that we experienced and what we were trained to provide. We will need to be smart about how we employ technology, as new tools have the potential to transform how we help students learn and create. We will need

"And it is indeed a form of love, that special kind of affection that teachers have for their students, that transforms education from a process to a gift."

to improve our ability to engage all students in learning that is personalized and challenging for them; to teach them higher-level skills that help them create solutions to problems and think critically about important ideas; and to ensure that they are ready for a complex global society that will require a high degree of adaptability and flexibility. Further, we will need to help our students develop an understanding of how to live a healthy life—physically, emotionally, and socially—so that they can adopt a growth mindset where they recognize that their effort and their choices will make the greatest difference in their success. To do all of this, we will need to collaborate more frequently and skillfully than ever before, and improve our professional knowledge and technique so that we can deliver the education that our students need.

Because we face these challenges, the School Committee has wisely asked that the district develop a small number of strategic priorities for the coming five years so that we can focus our energy and resources on what is most important to achieving our mission and goals for the benefit of students. I will be communicating more in the coming weeks about how your voices can be part of that process, and I look forward to learning what you think

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CORRECTION:

The name of Presenting Sponsor for the Road Scholars 5K Fun Run **Fallon Community Health Plan** was incorrectly listed in the photo caption in our Spring Issue.

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New Leaders and New Hires

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**Summer Fun and Two Unique
High School Programs**

*"Learning is not attained by chance,
it must be sought for with ardor and diligence."*
~ Abigail Adams

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Photos by Kimberlee Cantin

Floral Street School students arrive for the start of the 2011-12 school year on Tuesday, August 30 with smiles and waves.

Pictured above clockwise from upper left are third grader Sarah Urbano; Floral Street School Principal Mr. Todd Curtis greeting second grade student Diya Satanur; third grade students Mikayla Kihm, Abigail Mega-Coombs and Lauren Schulz; and Mr. Curtis and Assistant Principal Lisa McCubrey waving hello to third grade students Erin Montigny and Rebecca Gauvin.

Planning for the future

JOHN SAMIA
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

It seems like only yesterday that summer started, and then I found myself looking through back-to-school flyers with the hope of finding those last minute school items for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year. There was a lot of anticipation and excitement in the Samia household. My son and daughter each are attending a new school; my son entered the 7th grade at Oak and my daughter entered the 5th grade at Sherwood. They were also looking forward to seeing their friends and resuming their journey of learning.

I share my children's enthusiasm for the school year, both in my capacity as a parent and as a member of the Shrewsbury School Committee. As a parent, I am simply in awe of the results that our teachers deliver year after year, especially given the continuing economic challenges that Shrewsbury faces. During my speech to Town Meeting on May 16, 2011, I highlighted some of the accomplishments and progress of our district over the 2010-2011 school year, and I believe that they are worth mentioning again. In a nutshell, Shrewsbury Public Schools enjoyed another very successful year in academics, music and drama, the visual arts, and athletics.

Highlights included:

- Shrewsbury had more Governor's Commendation Schools (four) for achievement and improvement on the state MCAS exams than any other district in Central Massachusetts, and as a district placed among the top 10% in the state on several of the exams (as high as the top 1% on a single exam and in the top 13% in the aggregate);

- A national study done by the Center for American Progress places the Shrewsbury Public Schools in the top 2.8% of over 9,000 K-12 districts in the United States for "return on investment" when comparing cost to performance; and
- Shrewsbury was one of only 388 districts in the nation to be named to the College Board's Honor Roll for simultaneously increasing student access to and improving student achievement in Advanced Placement courses.

We are all reaping awards from Shrewsbury's investment in our children. Our schools and students continue to thrive and excel. With the new 2011-12 school year here, I am already excited to hear about new accomplishments and continued progress of our district.

As a School Committee member, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues Sandy Fryc, Dr. Dale Magee, Steve Levine and Erin Canzano to do everything that we can do to ensure that we continue to offer a quality of education that the Shrewsbury community expects. As I mentioned in my speech to Town Meeting, we believe that fiscal 2013 will be even more challenging than fiscal 2012 and have already identified the following challenges:

- In fiscal 2013, federal stimulus and job preservation funding will no longer be available. This, combined with contractual wage pressure, creates an initial deficit of approximately \$2.8 million;
- Deferred investments in textbooks, curriculum materials, and technology will need to be addressed in order to provide adequate instructional tools;
- The district must continue to strengthen its middle school program in order to minimize the loss of students to charter schools;
- Special education costs continue to escalate in general, and in many cases are unpredictable; and

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Educating with the heart

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about how we should go about addressing the challenges before us. I am excited about this process because, although there are daunting times ahead, it is empowering to take action on those things over which we do have control.


I also am excited because, as educators, we are in a unique position to address the tough challenges that face our world, society, and community. No other profession, in my opinion, has the power to influence the future as much as ours does. We belong to a school district that already does incredible things for students in many ways, thanks largely to the talent and dedication of you, the staff who work with them so passionately. We have much difficult work before us, but I promise you that, if we work together to make the right choices and implement them skillfully, we will ultimately be proud of what we will have accomplished for our students. And it has never been more important for us to get it right.

However, there is one more crucial ingredient that is necessary for us to truly succeed—and it is not magic, no matter how it might seem to a first grader learning to read. It is the same thing that allowed Professor Dumbledore’s protégé, Harry Potter, to ultimately triumph at the end of J.K. Rowling’s epic series. Ironically, though the books and films were about magic and wizardry, the key element of Harry’s victory was not magical at all, but rather something each one of us has the power to bestow – and that is love. And it is indeed a form of love, that special kind of affection that teachers have for their students, that transforms education from a process to a gift.

I was reminded of this love twice this past year, under the most unfortunate circumstances, when we lost two of our students to tragic accidents. And while I sorely wish that I never had to attend services of remembrance for ones who were so young, I was and continue to be deeply touched by two of the most moving eulogies I have ever heard: one given by PJ O’Connell for Andy Reese, the high school junior who was killed in an auto accident last December, and one written by Karen Catalanotti and delivered in absentia for Aaditya Basrur, the Paton School student who had just finished first grade who drowned at camp this summer. PJ was Andy’s golf coach and trusted mentor; Karen was Aaditya’s classroom teacher. I cannot do justice to the power of these educators’ words regarding the loss of their students, but I can say that all who heard them realized that they truly knew and loved their students, and I know that this provided a measure of comfort to their families and to all who knew them.

Unfortunately, it is often through tragedy that we are reminded of what is most important in our lives and in our work, and these experiences made it even more clear to me that the most important things we do are not related to what we teach or how we teach it, but rather in how we care for our students and for each other.

So, as we begin another year where we again are privileged to have the opportunity to improve the lives of young people—and, through them, the future—let’s remember that it is in our hearts where our greatest influence lies.



The non-profit Shrewsbury School Journal is published three times a year and reaches every household in the diverse and growing town of Shrewsbury. It is published by the central office of the Shrewsbury Public Schools with the help and expertise of many individuals. The mission of the Shrewsbury School Journal is to provide an accurate source of information about our school system and the town in which we live. We hope to foster a community of continuous learners.

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer
Superintendent

Mary Beth Banios
Assistant Superintendent

Kimberlee Cantin
Project Coordinator

New leaders infuse schools with energy

DR. JOSEPH M. SAWYER
SUPERINTENDENT

Talented, committed individuals are in high demand for leadership positions in public school districts in Massachusetts, as the first wave of Baby Boomers hits retirement and there is a limited pool of qualified applicants who are motivated to take on the rigor and challenge of school administration. Additionally, to a large degree there seems to be a “missing generation” of leaders, as in many places there were significantly fewer new educators hired during the 1980s and early 1990s due to the economy and the initial effects of Proposition 2 1/2, as

since coming on board. One example of Mr. Hurley’s success is that we had our smoothest opening of school since we began transportation fees with regard to bus registration and routing. Also new to Central Office as of July is Ms. Mary Beth Banios, our new assistant superintendent. Ms. Banios previously worked in Shrewsbury as the assistant principal of Floral Street School and the principal of Spring Street School, before working in other districts as a principal and assistant superintendent. In my opinion, Ms. Banios is among the most skilled educational leaders with whom I have ever worked when it comes to understanding and implementing best practices in curriculum, instruction, and assessment,

interim role after serving as the Director of Guidance for two years. While this is a new team, their familiarity with the students and program has already facilitated a very smooth opening of the school. There have also been leadership changes at Oak and Sherwood Middle Schools. Ms. Ann Jones, who has served in Shrewsbury for 16 years as a teacher, curriculum coordinator, and assistant principal at the middle school level, has been appointed as interim principal at Oak. Mr. Scott Yonker, who has taught eighth grade math here for 13 years, is now the interim assistant principal at Oak, while Ms. Heather Gablaski, who has served as an English language arts and social studies teacher and as a curriculum coordinator for at total of 13 years, is the



Director of Business Services
Mr. Liam Hurley



Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Mary Beth Banios



Srewsbury High School Principal
Mr. Todd Bazydlo



Oak Middle School Principal
Ms. Ann Jones

well as lower enrollments around the state. This has created a “sellers’ market” where strong school and district leaders are able to take advantage of opportunities that fit their professional and personal goals. This past year, in addition to having an administrative retirement, our district lost leaders who took advantage of such opportunities, including those who took promotions in other districts and those who made lateral moves based on geography. Fortunately, we have been successful in replacing those who left, mostly through tapping into a rich vein of internal leadership talent.

At the Central Office, Mr. Liam Hurley became the Director of Business Services last January, and he has done superb work with budget development and operations

and she is an extremely effective facilitator and presenter of professional development. I am confident her leadership will help us further improve our educational program.

At Shrewsbury High School, Mr. Todd Bazydlo was appointed principal after serving for six years in the assistant principal role. Mr. Bazydlo understands the culture at SHS and is committed to preserving the school’s strengths while seeking ways to improve it further. Supporting his work will be three new assistant principals, all of who come from other positions at SHS: Ms. Maureen Monopoli, who previously was a social sciences teacher for 11 years; Mr. Gerald (PJ) O’Connell, who previously served as a guidance counselor for 6 years; and Mr. Greg Nevader, who will be in an

new interim assistant principal at Sherwood. What strikes me about all of the leaders listed above is that they are all passionate about their work with students, parents, and educators and that they are highly invested in Shrewsbury specifically. They have brought a high level of positive energy to their work thus far, and I am excited to see how their skill and enthusiasm will help our schools as we continue to strive to meet our ambitious goals. I am particularly proud that most of these leaders have been cultivated within our district, where a modest investment in their leadership training and graduate work is now paying great dividends for our schools.



SHS Assistant Principal
Mr P.J. O’Connell



SHS Assistant Principal
Ms. Maureen Monopoli



SHS Interim Assistant Principal
Mr. Greg Nevader



Sherwood Middle School Interim Assistant Principal
Ms. Heather Gablaski



Oak Middle School Interim Assistant Principal
Mr. Scott Yonker

21st century learning

MARY BETH BANIOS
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
JON GREEN
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

“We have to prepare our children for their future, not our past.”

~ Daniel Pink

The Shrewsbury Public School District is committed to preparing our students for their future. The

world that our students are entering, and the demands placed upon them in this global environment, are markedly different than what we have experienced in the past. Today, the entire body of human knowledge is available within seconds, on a smartphone that can cost less than \$200 dollars. Given this, we need to significantly rethink what educating our students looks like. In the 21st century our students will need to learn how to work with the vast amount of information on a given topic and be able to assess each piece of information they receive through

a critical lens. They will then need to apply this information to novel situations. The problems our students will face will be complex, and will require persistence, creativity, and high levels of collaboration to solve.

Increasingly the jobs and opportunities that are available to our students require fluency with the 4 Cs: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking. Work that is formulaic in nature is rapidly becoming the domain of computers. When making technology choices we need to ensure that what we choose

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The 3rd Annual Celebration in the Garden Party

BETH McCOLLUM
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

&

MELANIE PETRUCCI
GARDEN PARTY COMMITTEE
MEMBER

The 3rd Annual Celebration in the Garden Party was held on Saturday, June 11, at the home of Heather and Jason Logrippo, The Fallon House. The Logrippo family hosted the event in 2009, and this year they opened their home again to nearly 250 community members who came out to support our public schools. Those in attendance included State Rep. Matt Beaton and his wife Laura, State Sen. Mike Moore and his wife Ellyn Lazar-Moore, and members of the Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee.

This year, \$25,000 was raised at the event to benefit Shrewsbury Public Schools. Many local businesses, individuals, and families contributed to the event by becoming sponsors, or by donating goods and services that were featured in the silent and live auctions. For a complete list of sponsors and auction donors please visit the Garden Party website: http://shrewsburygardenparty.com/Shrewsbury_Garden_Party/Home.html

The evening featured beautiful décor, great music, fabulous food, and decadent desserts. This was due to the efforts of the Host Committee - Brenda Buckley, Beth Casavant, Christa Duprey, Alicia Garbarino, Maureen Harrington, Hannah Kane, Kathleen Keohane, Steve Levine, Heather Logrippo, Elizabeth McCollum, Debra Page Mooney and Melanie Petrucci –whose members dedicated countless hours to planning and executing the event.

Shrewsbury Public Schools are grateful for the efforts of the Host Committee, event sponsors, donors, and attendees, to raise much-needed funding for our schools while bringing the community together for a unique and lovely evening. Anyone who was unable to attend but would still like to make a donation can visit the website above, or send a check made payable to “Shrewsbury Public Schools Betterment Fund” c/o Hannah Kane, 32 Main Circle, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

The committee is always looking for individuals who would like to be involved. If you are interested, please contact Hannah Kane at the address above or email our Volunteer Coordinator Beth McCollum at this address: emccollum@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.



Shown above are the 100 boxes that could be purchased for a chance to win a diamond necklace.



Fallon House, pictured above, is the home of Heather and Jason Logrippo who hosted the Celebration in the Garden Party for the second time.



Pictured above are handmade jewelry items in the Silent Auction donated by Calla Creations owner, Shrewsbury resident and former PTO President Kathleen Keohane.



School Committee Secretary Dr. B. Dale Magee and his wife Melanie check out the various items up for bid in the Silent Auction.

All Photos by Dotty Flynn

A NEAT meet and greet

KATHY FLOYD
SHS GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Help me; I'm lost! While many transferring new students may utter these words of desperation as schools open across the Commonwealth, it is less likely to be heard echoing through the halls of Shrewsbury High School – thanks to the New Entrant Assistance Team (NEAT),

comprised of nearly fifty Shrewsbury High School student volunteers!

This program was introduced as a student support initiative in 2005; the program is designed to assist students in grades ten through twelve as they adjust to the demands and expectations of Shrewsbury High School. Separate from the Mentor Volunteer Program, which is designed for ninth graders, NEAT targets easing the transition of a

smaller group of older students who are joining the community for the first time. The NEAT concept arose from my previous experience while working at Derry Township School District in Hershey, Pennsylvania, which employed a similar program.

Each year, the NEAT team welcomes over thirty new students in grades ten through twelve. Their

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Transportation news

ELIZABETH CALLAHAN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE

In September 2009 a Transportation Task Force was established to examine the district's approach to all facets of transportation. The two recommendations from that task force to take effect in September 2010 were: 1) registration for student transportation to be done exclusively on-line, and 2) to have bus passes available for pick-up in various locations, days and times.

The Business Office determined in the Winter of 2011 that the process of registration still required further examination and refinement (read: NOBODY liked waiting in those long lines for their bus passes!). Throughout a series of meetings between the Business Office and Technology Department, three opportunities for improvement were identified and implemented.

1. Registration through the school's student information system, PowerSchool.

In April letters were mailed to all families containing information to establish a PowerSchool Log-in ID and password for the Parent Portal. When the “window of opportunity” opened in the time period April 15 through June 1, families could register their students for bus privileges, print a confirmation and mail it to the Central Office with payment, if applicable.

2. Eliminate printed bus passes.

In working with our transportation vendor, AA Transportation of Shrewsbury, we determined lists of riders and the number of riders per bus stop could be provided to the bus drivers without the need to produce physical bus passes. This resulted in a savings of printing costs and manpower to the district. Periodic audits will be done to ensure eligibility for bus service.

3. Communicate bus route information in the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Utilizing the e-mail communication system to alert families of news and updates, families were notified to view bus numbers, approximate pick-up and drop-off times and locations for bus stops. They can use the same Log-in ID and password to access the Parent Portal in PowerSchool. This eliminates the need for a mailing with this information saving the district paper, postage and manpower costs.

So are we done making changes to the registration process for transportation? No; it's likely we'll never really be done making changes as we go through the experiences year after year and gain access to new technologies. We do have a future goal of bringing back the option of on-line payment and making some changes to the printed confirmation sheet. We really appreciate the overwhelming cooperation from families as we work to provide daily transportation to more than 4,400 students!



Planning

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- Continued pressures from mandates for academic performance to meet benchmarks (such as the No Child Left Behind law's expectation that ALL students will be proficient academically by 2014), new curriculum adopted by the state, new regulations for teacher and administrator evaluation, the anti-bullying law, concussion awareness law, and more.

Starting in June, Central Office and the School Committee started to focus on fiscal 2013, and began discussing how a strategic plan would serve as the proper vehicle for addressing these impending fiscal challenges by setting forth a tight, cohesive strategy that provides a clear vision for student learning within varying economic parameters. In late July, the School Committee provided Dr. Sawyer with its initial thoughts regarding the five areas that the strategic plan should focus upon. In early August, Dr. Sawyer and the leadership team held their annual summer leadership conference and developed many ideas that will be invaluable in the strategic planning process. While our strategic plan is in its infancy, we know what it will not be: a static document with so many to-dos that nothing can be accomplished. Instead, our strategic plan will set forth a focused and flexible strategy with goals that give teachers and students what they need to succeed, and will enable Shrewsbury to preserve the outstanding value the district provides to the Shrewsbury community. Now that school has started, the strategic planning process will be moving on a much more accelerated path. Over the next several weeks, Dr. Sawyer, the leadership team and teachers will be working diligently on developing the initial draft of the strategic plan, with a goal of presenting an initial proposal to the School Committee in late October. There will be opportunities for public input, and I hope you share your thinking with us. I am excited to be part of this process and will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the strategic planning process and look forward to presenting our strategic plan to the Shrewsbury community by late fall 2011.

Best wishes to you and your family in the 2011-2012 school year.

21st century

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serves and enhances students' learning.

In order to increase the impact of the vast instructional resources that are available on the world-wide-web, this summer we converted 25 conventional classrooms in our elementary schools to interactive digital classrooms by installing a projector, interactive white board, and document camera. This equipment allows teachers to seamlessly use internet resources in their lessons; it also makes all lesson content interactive. This interactivity provides for a more student centered and engaging experience for students. Because the lesson materials and resources are digital, they can easily be developed collaboratively and shared among teachers.

In addition to the interactive digital classrooms, we are exploring how the iPad can be used in service of student learning. Not only do we want to better understand how the iPad can enhance our current instruction, we also want to explore ways this technology can actually transform how we teach our children.

Over the course of the year we will be reporting out on what we are learning about the best ways to use these technologies. We view technology investments as critical in helping our students develop the 21st century skills that they will need in order to be fully prepared for the demands of our rapidly changing world.

Shrewsbury Food Service

BETH NICHOLS
DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES

Welcome Back!

Breakfast Program

A Breakfast Program is offered daily at the High School, Oak and Sherwood Middle Schools, before the school day begins. Breakfast is not served at the Elementary Schools. A variety of cereals, fruits, pastries, morning breads, yogurts, juice and milk are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA requirements for good nutrition. The cost of breakfast is \$1.25. Families with financial need may qualify for a reduced price breakfast at \$.30 or a free breakfast.

Prepaid Breakfast Plan

The Prepaid Breakfast Plan is available for the 2011-2012 school year. Breakfast will be served at the Middle Schools and High School. Breakfast is not offered at the Elementary Schools. Full Price Breakfast costs \$1.25 and Reduced Price Breakfast costs \$.30. Books of 20 Full Price Breakfast tickets cost \$25.00. Books of 20 Reduced Price Breakfast tickets cost \$6.00. Breakfast tickets are pink and can be used at the Middle or High Schools.

To purchase tickets send a self addressed stamped envelope along with your check for the number of books requested to: Shrewsbury School Food Service, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. Tickets will be mailed back to you. Tickets are non-refundable.

High School and Middle School Tickets may also be purchased by High School and Middle School students at the cafeteria registers during lunch and breakfast.

Lunch Program

A Lunch Program is offered daily at all schools. A minimum of four entrees is offered daily. In addition a variety of sandwiches, milks, 100% juices, fruits, vegetables and a salad bar are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA nutritional guidelines. The cost of lunch is \$2.75 at the Elementary Schools, \$3.00 at the Middle Schools and \$3.25 at the High School. Lunch Tickets left over from the 2010-2011 school year can be used at the appropriate schools.

Prepaid Lunch Plan

The Prepaid Lunch Plan is available for the 2011-2012 school year. Meals at the Elementary Schools cost \$2.75. Books of 20 -\$2.75 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$55.00. Tickets for the Elementary Schools are orange. Meals at the Middle Schools cost \$3.00. Books of 20 -\$3.00 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$60.00. Tickets for the Middle Schools are yellow. Meals at the High School cost \$3.25. Books of 20 -\$3.25 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$65.00. Tickets for the High School are green.

To purchase tickets send a self addressed stamped envelope along with your check for the number of books requested to: Shrewsbury School Food Service, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. Tickets will be mailed back to you. Tickets are non-refundable.

Kindergarten Snack Program

A kindergarten snack program is available to Full Day students. Both a snack and a beverage are delivered to your child's classroom daily. The cost of the snack and beverage is \$125.00 for the year.

High School Meals to Go

An after hour meal program is available daily for students. Students must order their meal by 8AM of the day the meal is requested. Bag meals include a sandwich, beverage, snack and fruit. Bagged meals cost \$4.00. Order forms are available at the school store, the cafeteria and in the serving area.

Free and Reduced Breakfast/Lunch Applications

Free and Reduced price meals are available to students if there is financial need. Applications will be e-mailed home to all families in the fall. Applications must be submitted yearly in the fall. Applications cannot be submitted prior to August 2, 2011 for the 2011-2012 school year. If you need an application at any time during the year call the Food Service Office at 508-841-8819 and one will be mailed to you. Applications are also available on the Food Service website. Eligibility is governed by guidelines set by the Federal Government. A written notification will be sent to all families stating what program they qualify for.

Menus

The menu is posted on the Shrewsbury Home Page website. The Food Service is committed to serving what is on the printed menu.

High School tickets may also be purchased by High School Students at the High School cafeteria registers during lunch and breakfast. Middle School tickets may also be purchased by Middle School Students at the Middle School cafeteria registers during lunch and breakfast.

Reduced priced tickets are only available through the mail, they are not sold at the registers.

Food Service Department Contact

Please contact the Food Service Department with any questions, suggestions, or ideas. The Food Service Department is located at Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. The telephone number for the Food Service Director, Beth Nichols is 508-841-8819. Each school site has a manager also available to speak with you. The numbers are as follows.

Beal	841-8874
Coolidge	841-8889
Floral Street	841-8723
Paton	841-8635
Spring Street	841-8708
Sherwood	841-8681
Oak	841-1217
High School	841-8848

Please visit the district homepage for forms, menus and Food Service information.



Photo by Kimberlee Cantin

Pictured above are Mary Ricker and Deb Novotny preparing the continental breakfast sponsored by Lesley University that was served to the staff on 'Welcome Back' day.

District welcomes 36 new educators

THOMAS M. KENNEDY
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

As the 2011/12 school year is now underway the district has completed the recruitment and selection process for the new teachers and administrators who have joined the Shrewsbury Public Schools. The hiring process officially started last February, when the district commenced advertising for anticipated vacancies. Our new staff will primarily replace teachers and administrators who have retired, resigned, or who are on a leave of absence. In addition, there were a small number of teachers who did not have their contract renewed as a result of the district's thorough supervision and evaluation program. The decision to non-renew the contract of a teacher is a difficult but necessary personnel action in order to maintain the highest quality workforce. The teacher selection process in Shrewsbury

is rigorous. The process includes interviews with principals, department directors, teachers, parents and Central Office administrators. At the high school, students also serve on the interview teams. All teaching positions require a demonstration lesson in the classroom. The demonstration lesson is a key ingredient in the selection and hiring process. Following the demonstration lesson the students in the classroom are provided an opportunity to provide feedback to the principal or department director. While several positions were filled prior to the close of school in June, many positions were also filled during the summer. We appreciate the involvement of staff and parents on these summer interview teams. In addition, each hiring process during the summer included the demonstration lesson. Thank you to the many students who participated in demonstration lessons over the summer. Our new staff attended a two-day orientation program on August 25 and 26.

In addition, all our new hires will participate in an after-school course throughout the fall to further prepare and support them as they transition to their new roles in Shrewsbury. Each new educator is also supplied with a mentor to assist and support them during their first year in Shrewsbury. The 36 newly hired staff represent a blend of experienced educators and recent graduates who are beginning their careers. Among the new hires are 12 individuals who have previously worked in the district as a principal, teacher, long-term substitute teacher, tutor or paraprofessional. In addition to our new hires there are 11 educators from within the district that have been appointed fill vacancies including a number of key building administrator positions. These individuals are listed below with both their new position and their former position. Our 47 newly appointed educators received their

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“Awesome” summer learning

KAREN GUTKANST
PROJECT COORDINATOR &
OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

The school year had ended, but the joy of learning was not over at Sherwood Middle School. On June 27th the Sherwood Summer Extensions Program welcomed over 50 fifth, sixth, and seventh graders to enjoy a week of academic enrichment and exploration – the first of four exciting weeks of extensions classes. In its debut year, the Sherwood Summer Extensions (SSE) Program offered thirteen different classes ranging from Public Speaking to Engineering with several classes running for more than one session.

Jane Lizotte, principal of Sherwood Middle School, conceived the SSE Program. Mrs. Lizotte envisioned the school buzzing with activity and alive with learning during the summer months. The goal of the program was to engage students at the height of their middle school years in classes that would allow them to investigate high interest topics beyond the school curriculum. The classes were challenging, hands on, and fun. Mrs. Lizotte commented, “I was thrilled by the number of positive responses shared by students, parents, and teachers! I never imagined that so many full-time faculty from both Oak and Sherwood Middle Schools would be interested in teaching courses during the summer months. The wide range of offerings provided students and teachers with many and diverse opportunities to explore their interests, while strengthening their skills and understanding of content.”

Science and technology offerings included: Constellation Station - Backyard Astronomy for Beginners, Endangered Species, Science Sleuth, Inventions and Gizmos, and Bringing Engineering to Life. Students completed a number of diverse projects in these classes. Some made various models of constellations in the astronomy class and others created new adaptations for endangered species that might help them survive and thrive. In addition, some students dissected flowers, designed solar cars, or constructed boats that could float out of paper cups, straws, and duct tape. A

special engineering challenge was to create a small table out of newspaper that could hold the weight of a heavy book. During the final week, three of the classes teamed up to design and build a miniature golf course in the hallway using household materials!

In its debut year, the Sherwood Summer Extensions (SSE) Program offered thirteen different classes ranging from Public Speaking to Engineering with several classes running for more than one session.

In addition to science classes, there were also several offerings in the humanities.

It was amazing to see the students in the public speaking class effectively use visual aids and reflect on their use of pacing, expression, and volume when giving their speeches. Some students also completed their summer reading in the full day Summer Reading Workshop held during the first week and in the afternoon Summer Reading Mystery class held in the third week. They were able to discuss the reading with each other and complete fun activities to improve understanding. In the creative writing class students experimented with writing scary stories, wacky stories, and personal

biographies adding vivid language and elaborate details. Down the hall in Calling All Mythologists, students explored the myths surrounding the gods of ancient cultures.

For students who wanted to learn tips on how to get organized and study more successfully there was the Summer Academic Workshop in the first week. Young artists used design and color to create artwork in Art in the Four Dimensions, and students curious about their ancestry traced their roots in Genealogy for Beginners. Some members of the genealogy class even discovered they were related to each other through ancestors that lived long ago!

Participants in the program did not have to attend Shrewsbury Public Schools to enroll, and some students were able to make new friends from schools other than their own. In addition, many SPS students met future classmates who will be on their academic teams in the coming school year, and fifth graders planning to attend Sherwood in the fall became acquainted with their new school and some of its teachers.

Students gave the program rave reviews! On the last day of his class, one student could be overheard telling his teacher, “I loved this class!” Another student, when asked how her week was, replied, “It was awesome!”



Photo by Karen Gutekanst

Pictured above are left to right, Ananya Jain and Jenny Chen working on a project for the 'Bringing Engineering to Life' class.

Extraordinary service

Since becoming superintendent, Dr. Joseph Sawyer has promoted the importance of recognizing outstanding performance on the part of students and staff. Each year, at the opening day assembly of all staff members, he presents Superintendent's Awards to staff members who have “provided extraordinary service to the Shrewsbury Public Schools.” The awards, which are a surprise to the recipients, are the highlight of the morning. This year, the recipients were: Judy DeFalco, Shrewsbury High School Nurse and District Lead Nurse; Patricia Degon, District Director of Health, Physical Education, and Family Consumer Science; Linda Lepiesza, First Grade Teacher, Paton School; and Janet Pope, Media Specialist/Assistant, Sherwood Middle School.



Photo by Kimberlee Cantin

Pictured above from l-r with Dr. Sawyer are this year's recipients of the "Superintendent Award": Janet Pope, Judy DeFalco, Pat Degon and Linda Lepiesza.

NEAT meet

CONTINUED from page 3

first introduction to SHS takes place a few days in advance of the school's opening. Invited to Orientation through postings on the Guidance Department's webpage and personal phone calls, students are greeted by volunteers when they arrive for their tours. Grade level groups mingle and chat after new students receive their SuperFan T-shirts provided by Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union, and a Welcome Packet. Among the topics discussed is the content of the packet, which includes a copy of the academic schedule with bell schedule, a list of clubs and organizations compiled by Mr. Rick Marchand, Activities Coordinator, and an Athletic Pass to a home SHS football game generously provided by Mr. Jay Costa, SHS Athletic Director. Refreshments are served and students often exchange phone numbers and plan future connections by the session's end.

NEAT volunteers are comprised of energetic, enthusiastic and, above all, friendly students who have a desire to represent Shrewsbury High School in a positive way while also demonstrating a sincere desire to serve as welcoming ambassadors to their classmates who are entering foreign territory for the first time.

Once the school year is underway, the NEAT team continues their support of new entrants through face-to-face social networking in small group sessions to which participants are invited. In addition to meeting monthly, volunteers continue to provide tours and guide students who join the ranks of SHS as the year unfolds. Mid-year prompts a check-in when NEAT hosts a lunchtime pizza party gathering. Finally, as the year draws to a close, NEAT invites the new entrants who have come to SHS over the school year to an ice cream social.

NEAT volunteers are comprised of energetic, enthusiastic and, above all, friendly students who have a desire to represent Shrewsbury High School in a positive way while also demonstrating a sincere desire to serve as welcoming ambassadors to their classmates who are entering foreign territory for the first time. NEAT finds that many new entrants become great NEAT volunteers because of their sensitivity to the experience of being new. NEAT always welcomes volunteers and interested students are encouraged to contact me for additional information at 508-841-8818 or email at kfloyd@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

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Reminding you that you can use your C/W Mars Library Card to login to some great resources from your home. For more information on these online tools listed below, go to the 'Reference & Research' page on <http://shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>.

- Bookflix
- Curriculum Resource Center
- Mango Languages
- Novelist
- Tutor.com
- World Book

NEW EDUCATORS, from page 4

undergraduate and graduate degrees from 45 colleges/universities. In addition, 70 percent of these individuals hold a master’s degree or above. In addition to the staff listed below a number of support staff, including ABA technicians, instructional aides, special educational aides, tutors, secretaries, extended school care workers, and technology support staff have been hired to fill vacancies. No new positions were added in these areas.

CENTRAL OFFICE

Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent, B.A. Bridgewater State College; M.Ed. University of Massachusetts- Lowell. Ms. Banios was previously employed in Shrewsbury as assistant principal at Floral Street School and principal at Spring Street School

DISTRICT-WIDE

Shirley LeMay, Health/Adaptive Physical Education, (former grade 3 teacher at Coolidge School), B.S. Worcester State College; B.A. Worcester State College; M.Ed. Worcester State College

HIGH SCHOOL

John Aloisi, Social Sciences, B.A. College of the Holy Cross

Todd Bazydlo, Principal, (former assistant principal at Shrewsbury High School), B.A. Bridgewater State College; M. Ed. Providence College

Mark Blessington, Science, B.S. Assumption College

Katie Cappiello, Special Education, B.A. Assumption College; M.S. Southern Connecticut State University

Moira Chan, Science, B.S. McMaster University (Ontario); M.S. Queen’s University (Ontario)

Kara Constantine, Science, B.S. Bates College

Norman (Chuck) Danielson, Interim English Department Director, (former English teacher at Shrewsbury High School), B.A. University of Massachusetts-Amherst; M. Div. Yale University

Lee Diamantopoulos, Guidance, B.A. Framingham State College; M.A. Cambridge College

Dominique Fife, Guidance, B.S. Babson College; M.A. Assumption College

Mario Gonzales, Special Education, B.A. Binghamton University (NY); M.S. Simmons College

Colleen Hall, English, B.A. Merrimack College

Zachary Hertel-Therrien, Social Sciences, B.A. Fitchburg State College

David Leahy, Science, B.A. Cornell University; M.A. Cornell University; Ph.D. University of Michigan

Maureen Monopoli, Assistant Principal, (former social sciences teacher at Shrewsbury High School) B.A. University of Massachusetts-Amherst; M.Ed. Endicott College; M.Ed. Cambridge College

Catherine Murray, English as a Second Language, B.A. Saint Joseph’s College of Maine

Gregory Nevader, Interim Assistant Principal, (former guidance department director at Shrewsbury High School), B.A. State University of New York at Plattsburgh; M.A. State University of New York at Plattsburgh; C.A.G.S. State University of New York at Plattsburgh

Gerald (PJ) O’Connell, Assistant Principal, (former guidance counselor at Shrewsbury High School), B.A. University of Massachusetts-Amherst; M.Ed. Endicott College; M.Ed. Cambridge College

Daniel Shaughnessy, Special Education, B.A. Framingham State College; M.S. Simmons College

Branching out with Summer Enrichment

JEAN BRUNELL
SHS TEACHER & SUMMER
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Each summer, Floral Street School comes alive with a plethora of activities, demonstrating both the instructive and entertaining aspects of learning. Students

ranging from grades Pre-K to 8 delved into Shrewsbury’s Summer Enrichment Program: a 4-week program that had over 2600 registrants involved in 209 varied classes. This enrollment was a record high for the program and a reflection of the dedication of instructors, high school volunteers, parents, and students.

The true heart of the program is

the 65 teachers that care, inspire, and educate the children in the morning and afternoon sessions. In addition, there are approximately 150 high school student volunteers assisting the teachers in the classroom. This type of service learning, linking our community’s high school students to their younger counterparts, has enriched both the experiences of the young participants and the volunteers.

Although the nature of the classes is high-spirited and fun, the overall purpose of this program is to enrich the learning and growth of students throughout the summer. By taking courses in which the students have great interest, they are able to enhance strengths they already have as well as develop skills needed in the classroom. Whether it is heightening students’ curiosity in science experiments, learning patience and precision in cooking, bringing imagination to life in the world of Harry Potter, or practicing dance while encouraging healthy and active youths, the summer enrichment program caters to every kind of learner.



Photo courtesy of Jean Brunell

Pictured above are Firefighters Dan Ledowsky and Brendan Palumbo along with students from Dina Taylor’s class called **BALLS, TRAINS and THINGS THAT GO**. Front row from left to right are Noah Johnston, Dylan Fanale, Niketh Miyala, Michael Mendilian, Liam Duffy and Isaac Wolfus; Middle row from left to right are Brady Chenevert, Evan Zhang, Benjamin Sackinsky, Cole Parseghian, Henry Donnelly and Ryan Flynn; Back row from left to right are Luke Reardon, Luke Martin, Michael Monopoli, John O’Leary, Tom Sackinsky, Christopher Hester, Alex Zhang, Ian Hurd

OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sharon Freedman, Advanced Math Coach, B.A. Radcliffe College – Harvard University; M.Ed. University of New Hampshire

Ann Jones, Interim Principal (former assistant principal at Sherwood Middle School), B.A. Saint Anselm College; M. Ed. Worcester State College

Kathryn Luby, Mathematics, B.A. Assumption College

Donna McGrath, Social Studies, (former English language arts/social studies teacher at Sherwood Middle School), B.A. Rider University (NJ); M.Ed. Fitchburg State College

Matthew Sloan, Mathematics, B.A. Westfield State College

Scott Yonker, Assistant Principal (former mathematics teacher at Oak Middle School), B.S. Eastern Michigan University; M.A. Framingham State College

SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Emily Broderick, Math/Science, B.A. Stonehill College

Kathleen Camerato, English Language Arts/ Social Studies, B.A. Syracuse University

Mary Ellen Considine, Special Education, B.A. Anna Maria College; M.A. Assumption College

Gloria DiGiacomo, Math/Science, B.S. Bentley College; M.Ed. Lesley University

Heather Gablaski, Interim Assistant Principal (former social studies curriculum coordinator at Sherwood Middle School and Oak Middle School), B.S. Worcester State College; M.Ed. Worcester State College

Susan Kirchhausen, Music,B.M. Florida

State University; M.M. University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Erica McMahon, Special Education, B.A. Merrimack College; M.Ed. Merrimack College

Laura Ryan, Math/Science, B.A. Westfield State College

Paula Vargas, Foreign Language, B.A. Cleveland State University; M.Ed. Framingham State College

BEAL EARLY
CHILDHOOD CENTER

Meghan Bartlett, Special Education Team Chair (shared with Spring Street; former special education teacher at Spring Street School), B.A. Providence College; M.Ed. Lesley University

Heather Downs, Kindergarten, B.S. Framingham State College; M.Ed. Lesley University

Lisa Drobinski, School Psychologist, B.S. Worcester State College; M. Ed. Worcester State College; C.A.G.S. Worcester State College

Tahnee Fallis, Music (shared with Coolidge School), B.A. The College of Saint Rose (NY); M.A. Binghamton University

Alissa Gillis, Art (shared with Coolidge School), B.A. Stonehill College; M.A. Boston University

Bridget West, Kindergarten, B.A. Emerson College; M.Ed. University of Massachusetts-Boston

COOLIDGE SCHOOL

Tahnee Fallis, Music (shared with Beal Early Childhood Center), B.A. The College of Saint Rose (NY); M.A. Binghamton University

Alissa Gillis, Art (shared with Beal Early Childhood Center), B.A. Stonehill College; M.A. Boston University

Pamela Kunar, Grade 3, B.A. Saint Michael’s College; M.Ed. Northeastern University

Shirley LeMay, Health (shared with Paton; former grade 3 teacher at Coolidge School), B.S. Worcester State College; B.A. Worcester State College; M.Ed. Worcester State College

FLORAL STREET SCHOOL

Sara DeAngelis, Art (shared with Paton School), B.A. Massachusetts College of Art

Amanda Kelly, Special Education, B.A. Boston University; M.S. Simmons College

Julie Leifer, Special Education, B.A. Boston University

PATON SCHOOL

Sara DeAngelis, Art (shared with Floral Street School), B.A. Massachusetts College of Art

Shirley LeMay Health, (shared with Coolidge; former grade 3 teacher at Coolidge School), B.S. Worcester State College; B.A. Worcester State College; M.Ed. Worcester State College

Keri Warwick, Special Education, B.S. Westfield State College; M.A. Assumption College

SPRING STREET SCHOOL

Lynn Bazydlo, Special Education, B.A. Providence College; M.Ed. Boston College

Meghan Bartlett, Special Education Team Chair (shared with Beal; former special education teacher at Spring Street School), B.A. Providence College; M.Ed. Lesley University

Sharing a passion for chemistry

RAMYA RAVINDRABABU
SHS STUDENT AND CHEMCLUB MEMBER
DERRIC LOWERY
SHS CHEMISTRY TEACHER



RAMYA RAVINDRABABU only sparks their interest to learn more about a particular subject or topic. Currently, at Shrewsbury High School, there is an opportunity for students to pursue their interest in Chemistry

In an ever increasingly technological society, a solid background in science is essential to understand the world around us. Within the Shrewsbury Public Schools, students have access to science instruction at all grade levels, but for some students, the standard science curriculum



Photo by Derric Lowery

Minh Nguyen (L) and Adam Amatucci (R) demonstrate the “Hot Milk” reaction to students at Coolidge Elementary School.



Photo by Derric Lowery

Nick Silverio (L) and Ramya Ravindrababu (R) demonstrate the “yellow and blue switcheroo” reaction to students at Spring Street Elementary School.

beyond what is covered in their daily science courses. This past academic year was the first year for the Shrewsbury High School ChemClub. The organization, which is chartered through the American Chemical Society and is one of 330 nationwide chapters, currently has a membership of approximately 20 students who meet on a weekly basis to carry out Chemistry experiments and demonstrations that are not typically part of the standard curriculum. Part of the mission of the SHS ChemClub is

also to share members’ passion for Chemistry with other students in the Shrewsbury community. Using funding provided through a grant from the Shrewsbury High School Alumni Association, the ChemClub implemented their mission in June by visiting two elementary schools in the Shrewsbury District – Spring Street Elementary School and Coolidge Elementary School. Members presented a program entitled, “The Five Signs of a Chemical Reaction”, which utilized different chemical reactions and other visuals to

explain some of the fundamental concepts of Chemistry. The goal of these presentations was to encourage students to take an active interest in science, to show them that sciences like Chemistry are exciting, to illustrate the value of asking questions, and to demonstrate how science can be used to answer questions about everyday life. In a world where scientific development is quickly taking precedence over other fields, it is important to instill into the children of the community the importance of science and to also show them that science is fun. Feedback from the programs was extremely positive. From the Coolidge school, Ms. Brozeit’s class wrote thank you notes to the club. Each student stated their favorite reaction, drew a picture, pointed out the key observation that identified the process as a chemical reaction and gave a reason why they liked the presentation. Ms. Liporto from the Spring Street Elementary School communicated to the ChemClub that the presentation inspired many of her students. She also indicated that she overheard many students saying that they can’t wait to get to the High School and join the club themselves. As a first year club, the ChemClub has been hugely successful. The response from the teachers and the students of the two schools hosting the presentations encouraged students to keep looking for new ways to get the club involved in the school community. Tentative plans for next year include visiting one or both middle schools and all of the district elementary schools. As a group of people who all have one thing in common, a passion for Chemistry, the ChemClub hopes to help students see how valuable and fun Chemistry can be.

Upcoming Curriculum Nights

- Beal Early Childhood Center**
Monday, September 19th for grade 1 & PreK (parents only) from 5-6pm
Thursday, September 22nd for Kindergarten (parents only) from 6-7pm
- Calvin Coolidge School**
Tuesday, September 20th for grades 3 & 4
Monday, September 26th for grades K, 1 & 2
From 7-8pm both evenings
- Floral Street School**
Tuesday, September 20th for grade 1
Wednesday, September 21st for grade 2
Monday, September 26th for grade 3
Tuesday, September 27th for grade 4
From 6:45-8pm both evenings
- Spring Street School**
Tuesday, Sept. 20th for grades K, 1 & 2
Tuesday, Sept. 27th for grades 3 & 4
From 6:30-7:30pm both evenings

- Walter J Paton School**
Tuesday, September 20th for grades 3 & 4
Monday, September 26th for grades 1 & 2
From 6:30-8pm both evenings
- Sherwood Middle School**
Tuesday, Sept. 13th 6:45-8:00 pm for Grade 5
Wednesday, Sept. 14th 6:45-8:00 pm for Grade 6
From 6:45 - 8:00pm both evenings
- Oak Middle School**
Monday, Sept. 12th from 6:00-7:30 pm for Grade 7
Thursday, Sept. 15th from 6:00 -7:30 pm for Grade 8
- Shrewsbury High School**
For grades 9 through 12 is on Thursday, September 22nd at 6:30 pm
- Parker Road Preschool**
Wesleyan Terrace - Tuesday, Oct. 4th
15 Parker Road - Tuesday, Oct. 11th
From 6-7pm both evenings

Shrewsbury Public Schools notice of non-discrimination

The Shrewsbury Public Schools is required by the Massachusetts Department of Education to publish an annual statement of non-discrimination. This notice serves to meet that requirement. The Massachusetts Equal Educational Opportunity statute, General Laws Chapter 76 & 5, ensures that all students have the right to equal educational opportunities in the public schools. The Shrewsbury Public School District is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. The Shrewsbury Public Schools is in compliance with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment. The complete Statement of Non-discrimination can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent’s Office of the Shrewsbury School Department at 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 or by calling 508-841-8400 to request a copy.



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